

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to insert a statement that the present application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/010403, filed September 18, 2003.

Claim 6 has been amended as set forth above to eliminate multiple dependency. Support for this amendment is found in original claim 6. See, *In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l).

Claims 7-8 have been added. Support for these claims is found in original claim 6. *Id.*

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing claims and amendments. Approval and entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits, and allowance of all the claims, respectfully, are requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Charles M. Avigiano
Charles M. Avigiano
Registration No. 52,578
BRYAN CAVE LLP
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104
Phone: (212) 541-2000
Fax: (212) 541-4630